

episode hurried him on to a resignation. July 31st he sent to the President a letter in which a decided tone of bitterness is to be discovered. One passage will suffice: "At the close, therefore, of the ensuing month of September, I shall beg leave to retire to scenes of greater tranquillity, from those which I am every day more and more convinced that neither my talents, tone of mind, nor time of life fit me." Jefferson went more fully into his reasons: "I expressed to him [Washington] my excessive repugnance to public life, the particular uneasiness of my situation in this place where the laws of society oblige me always to move exactly in the circles which I know to bear me peculiar hatred, that is to say, the wealthy aristocrats, the merchants closely connected with England, the new created paper fortunes; that thus surrounded, my words were caught, multiplied, misconstrued, and even fabricated and spread abroad to my injury; that he (Washington) saw, also, that there was such an opposition of views between myself and another part of the administration as to render it peculiarly displeasing and to destroy the necessary harmony." At the further solicitation of the President, however, Jefferson agreed to continue in office through December.

On December 31st, 1793, therefore, Jefferson finally transmitted his resignation, couched in terms of the warmest cordiality and profoundest respect towards the President. He received in reply a letter which goes far towards refuting the idea that there was at this time an alienation between Washington and Jefferson, or that Jefferson averted an approaching alienation by resigning. No stronger summary of Jefferson's service in the Cabinet can be given than Washington's stately words of commendation and personal regard:

"Dear Sir: Since it has been impossible to prevail upon you to forego any longer the indulgence of your desire for private life, the event, however anxious I am to avert it, must be submitted to. But I cannot suffer you to leave your station without assuring you that the opinion which I have formed of your integrity and talents, and which dictated your original nomination, has been confirmed by the fullest experience, and that both have been